

Message Text

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FOR USEEC

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRID 09649 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN,
BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, PARIS,
AND ROME DATED AUG 22, 1978.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 09649

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, SP, FR

SUBJECT: SPANISH-EEC RELATIONS: GOS ATTEMPTS TO CALM
TROUBLED WATERS

1. SPAIN'S LONG-SIMMERING FISHING PROBLEMS WITH THE EEC
REACHED CRITICAL STAGE OVER THE WEEKEND WITH THREAT BY
IRELAND TO CRACK DOWN ON SPANISH VESSELS FISHING WITHOUT
LICENSES. ALTHOUGH SOME FINES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED IN PAST,
THEY HAVE RANGED FROM HALF-MILLION TO MILLION PESETAS
(ABOUT \$6500-\$13,000) WHICH FISHERMEN CONSIDERED AS
FEASIBLE RISK. THUS MOST OF 300 VESSELS WITHOUT LICENSES
(EEC GRANTED ONLY 120 "PROVISIONAL" LICENSES TO COVER
TOTAL OF ABOUT 400 SPANISH VESSELS) HAVE CONTINUED TO
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GO OUT. IRISH DECISION TO RISE FINES TO 20 MILLION
PESETAS (ABOUT \$270,000) HAS RESULTED IN AUGUST 20 RECALL
OF ALL SHIPS WITHOUT LICENSES, WITH MOST FISHERMEN
REPORTEDLY HEEDING CALL.

2. SERIES OF MEETINGS LAST TWO DAYS, CAPPED BY AUGUST 21
MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT SUAREZ AND MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

AND COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COMMERCE AND EEC RELATIONS, HAVE APPARENTLY FAILED TO PRODUCE QUICK SOLUTION. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT SANCHEZ TERAN, AFTER MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, TOLD PRESS THAT GOS "DOES NOT ACCEPT" LIMIT OF 120 LICENSES AND WILL PRESS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TO RESOLVE ISSUE. OTHER MEASURES HE MENTIONED INCLUDED "REDISTRIBUTION" OF FLEET AND DIPLOMATIC MOVES TO OBTAIN FISHING RIGHTS FROM AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN STATES. SPAIN PLANS TO USE CONCESSION OF IMPORT LICENSES AS QUID FOR FISHING RIGHTS.

3. FISHERMEN THEMSELVES APPEAR DIVIDED AS TO FUTURE ACTION, WITH SOME READY TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT'S OFFER OF UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS OF 30,000 PESETAS/MONTH (ABOUT \$400) COMPARED WITH REPORTED AVERAGE WAGES OF 50,000 PESETAS/MONTH. OTHERS HAVE THREATENED TO BLOCK OR BURN FRENCH TRUCKS BRINGING FISH ACROSS BORDER OR TO BLOCK STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR WITH BOATS. BASQUE FISHERMEN HAVE RAISED ADDITIONAL CLAIM OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SUBSECRETARY OF FISHING AND MERCHANT MARINE VICTOR MORO, WHO IS ALSO DEPUTY TO CORTES FROM THE GALICIAN PROVINCE OF PONTEVEDRA. ACCORDING TO BASQUES, MORO HAS FAVORED GALICIAN FISHERMEN WHEN DISTRIBUTING AVAILABLE LICENSES. FURTHER, THEY CLAIM THAT A "VERBAL AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND PERMITTING SPANISH FISHING AS LONG AS IT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUTSIDE FIFTY MILE LIMIT WAS INTENTIONALLY KEPT SECRET FROM BASQUE FISHERMEN.

4. AN ADDITIONAL TOPIC OF CONCERN IN SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH THE EC IS THE RECENT AND HIGHLY PUBLICIZED OPPOSITION OF SEVERAL MAJOR FRENCH POLITICAL GROUPS TO SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE COMMON MARKET. THE PCF HAS JUST ANNOUNCED A "WEEK OF ACTION" TO FOLLOW UP LAST MONTH'S "STRIKE DAY" (JORNADA DE LUCHA). THEIR AIM IS TO EDUCATE THE FRENCH PEOPLE ON THE "GRAVE THREATS AGAINST THE FRENCH ECONOMY" POSED BY EC ENLARGEMENT. SINCE THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY FULLY SUPPORTS EC MEMBERSHIP, A "FRATERNAL" FIGHT OF SOME MAGNITUDE MAY BE SHAPING UP. THE SPANISH PRESS REPORTS CONSIDERABLE IN-FIGHTING AMONG FRENCH COMMUNIST AND LEFTISTS OVER THE ISSUE AND PREDICTS A STRONG IMPACT ON "EUROCOMMUNISM" IN GENERAL, WITH MOST PARTIES BEING IN FAVOR OF EC ENLARGEMENT.

5. WITH CHIRAC AND SOME OF THE GAULLISTS ALSO IN PUBLIC OPPOSITION, THE SPANISH ARE QUICKLY REALIZING THAT THE DAYS OF EASY TALK ARE OVER AND THE HARD BARGAINING HAS BEGUN. THE GOVERNMENT'S NEGOTIATORS PROFESS TO BE WELL

AWARE OF HOW THREATENED AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN
FRANCE FEEL BY SPANISH COMPETITION. THEY TELL US THAT
THEY ARE PREPARED TO OFFER LONG TERM "PROTECTIVE" ARRANGE-
MENTS, FOR UP TO SAY 10 YEARS, TO SAFEGUARD THE MARKET
POSITION OF FRENCH FARMERS. ONE KEY NEGOTIATOR TOLD US
THAT MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THAT CHIRAC IS JUST
BEING DEMAGOGIC FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSE. THE
SPANISH SEEM REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT WITH GISCARD'S
STRONGLY STATED (BUT ALSO CAREFULLY HEDGED) SUPPORT,
AND THEIR OWN WILLINGNESS TO OFFER CONCESSIONS, FRENCH
AGRICULTURAL OPPOSITION TO EC MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN
CAN BE OVERCOME. TODMAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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